

NOVEMBER 3, 1992 VOL. 166, NO. 43

## FOR THE RECORD

**Parks letters**

In two letters, Keith Parks spells out why he is retiring as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. See page 2.

**Another gone**

Betty Law, Foreign Mission Board vice president for the Americas, is resigning due to disagreements with FMB trustees. She becomes the second FMB vice president to quit in recent months for that reason. See page 2.

**Church growth**

Speakers at a Highview Baptist Church conference in Louisville cited vision and supernatural touch as contributors to church growth. See page 3.

**Family Forum**

How can I teach children to relate better to senior adults? See page 4.

**Editorial**

Keith Parks' farewell letter to missionaries contains cautionary advice Kentucky Baptists need to hear. See page 5.

**Boycott called**

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, has called for a boycott of Time Warner Inc. to protest publication of the new Madonna photo book, "Sex." See page 6.

## Business will focus on money matters

By Marv Knox  
Editor

Money—and its effect on Baptist relationships—will step to center stage during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

"Jesus Christ: Our foundation, our focus, our future" will be the official theme for the KBC, which will meet at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville Nov. 10-11.

But two money/relationship items are expected to get the most intense attention.

One is the method by which the KBC determines how many messengers a church may send to the annual meeting. The other is the convention's support for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

■ **Messenger qualification.** This issue will be presented by a special committee created in 1990 to study Kentucky and Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget.

The committee's proposal would broaden the rules for qualifying messengers to the annual meeting by recognizing churches' direct contributions to the KBC.

Currently, each church that is "in friendly cooperation with" and "a bona fide contributor to" the convention's work gets two messengers to the annual meeting. One additional messenger, up to a total of 10, is add-

ed for each 250 members over the first 100 or for each \$250 contributed annually to the Cooperative Program.

Gifts to the Cooperative Program did not become a qualifying factor for KBC messengers until 1980. Previously, the "bona fide contributor" clause was the only policy. Even today, the Southern Baptist Convention does not make CP gifts a requirement for sending messengers.

The new proposal would allow one additional messenger, up to 10, for each \$250 contributed to "the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention" and/or the Cooperative Program. It would not change the membership-based formula.

The proposal also recommends "that no changes be made in the policy for receiving and distributing Cooperative Program funds."

The Cooperative Program/messenger-qualification issue has become a focal point within the KBC as the SBC controversy has escalated.

The KBC defines "Cooperative Program" contributions as only those that are undesignated. As such, they are subject to KBC/SBC division.

Moderates have objected to continued undesignated support for the SBC, arguing they have been shut out of national decision-making. But because of Kentucky's stringent definition of Cooperative Program, they have had to maintain at least some undesignated national giving to quali-

fy their messengers to the state meeting. The change would allow those churches to participate fully in the KBC without being required to support the SBC.

Kentucky's method of qualifying messengers is the most stringent of any of the 15 largest state conventions affiliated with the SBC. Supporters of the proposed change say it would bring Kentucky more in line with the practices of other state conventions.

Further, they argue that the change would more appropriately reflect the autonomous relationship churches have to the KBC and SBC. Churches are not required to give to the KBC to qualify for messengers to the SBC.

■ **Baptist Joint Committee.** This issue is expected to surface in a possible motion to rescind action taken at the 1991 KBC meeting.

At that time, messengers voted to ask the KBC Executive Board to "find a way to provide funds in the 1993-94 budget and subsequent budgets which will allow our convention to support the Baptist Joint Committee."

The Baptist Joint Committee, a religious liberty watchdog in Washington, has been near the center of the SBC controversy for most of the past decade. Opponents say it's too liberal, that it should have supported school prayer and anti-abortion amendments. Supporters say it holds the traditional Baptist line on separation of church and state.

Kentucky supporters began trying to find ways to provide money for the

□ See Money matters ..., page 7

Issues  
KBC  
messengers  
will consider

## Lexington man's work lauded by Kazakh leader

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (BP)—A Lexington man is among a group of Baptist volunteers praised by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan for coming to his nation.

Ric Hale, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, is one of nine Baptist volunteers serving on the faculty of the Kazakhstan Institute for Marketing, Economics and Strategic Research.

Nazarbayev, one of the most influential leaders in formerly Soviet-dominated Central Asia, spoke at the institute's opening ceremony. He called the Baptist volunteers "missionaries to the economy" of Kazakhstan.

The institute, in the capital city of Alma-Ata, has made an about-face in the past two years—turning from a Communist Party school into a top economic institute. It is the only school in Kazakhstan offering students a graduate business degree.

More volunteers are needed to staff the institute and for other Baptist projects in former Soviet republics. For information, contact Cooperative Services International, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

## First new counseling center opens in Bowling Green area

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

A new venture to offer Christian family counseling in Kentucky begins this week in Bowling Green under a partnership between Warren Baptist Association and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Similar counseling centers could be started in other regions of the state in cooperation with other Baptist churches and associations, said Jane Parker, counseling director for Homes for Children.

Cornerstone Counseling, a service for families, couples and individuals of all ages, will see its first clients in Bowling Green Nov. 5. Terry Peck, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church and a trained marriage and family counselor, will take appointments through Cornerstone on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Cornerstone's office has been established at 1227 Park St., in a house provided by First Baptist Church of Bowling Green and renovated by volunteer labor.

This venture fulfills the dream of pastors in Warren Association and marks a pilot project for Homes for Children.

The idea for the service originated with Warren Association pastors and Director of Missions Frank Dorris, who sensed a need for Christian coun-

seling on a pay-as-you're-able basis. Cornerstone will operate on a sliding-scale fee schedule, with rates based on a family's income.

"It's a long-overdue thing," Dorris explained. "The need has been so great. Many of the towns around here have absolutely no counseling at all. And there's never a week goes by that I don't have churches from surrounding counties call and ask for somebody I can refer them to."

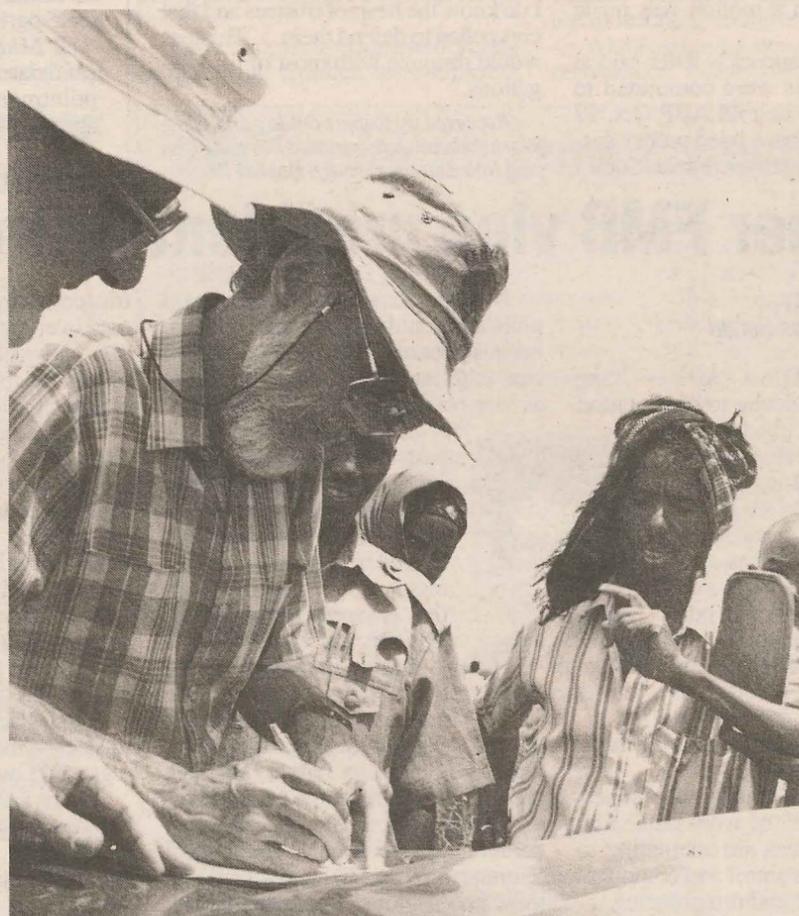
The Cornerstone service will help pastors serve their churches better, Dorris explained. "A great part of your pastoral ministry is working with families. You reach a place where really you have to refer. Having that service available is a tremendous relief for many of our pastors.

"It opens up avenues for them to do other things. And they can feel comfortable they're referring them to somebody they can have confidence in."

The service especially will benefit bivocational pastors, who serve 49 percent of the association's churches, Dorris said. "Bivocational pastors often are not equipped to do family counseling. And in smaller churches, often the family doesn't feel comfortable going to the pastor because they'll see him three or four times a week."

In addition to counseling, Corner-

□ See Bowling Green ..., page 3



**HELPING HAND** As a Somali refugee leader watches, Southern Baptist missionary doctor David Sorley writes a letter to clinic physicians urging them to admit a sick orphan boy. Sorley works in a Baptist effort to aid thousands of Somali refugees in northern Kenya. With designated relief funds from the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Sorley and other missionaries are aiding refugees with medicine, clean water supplies, sanitary toilet facilities and education for children. The FMB has called Southern Baptists to pray for the starving people of war-torn Somalia and to give to the FMB's relief fund. (BP photo by Craig Bird)

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Joel Gregory** is not a candidate for the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas, he told the Dallas Morning News Oct. 25. Gregory, who resigned suddenly Sept. 30 as pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, has been guest preacher at the Wichita Falls church, which currently is seeking a pastor. He told the Morning News he plans to do more guest preaching across the country and is working on a New Testament commentary for Broadman Press.

■ **The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's** 1993 general assembly will be held May 13-15 at the Birmingham Civic Center in Birmingham, Ala., announced John Hewett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C., and immediate past president of the Fellowship. Hewett particularly encouraged Kentucky Baptists to participate in the meeting, noting, "Kentucky Baptists have a long tradition of faithfulness to our distinctives as historic Baptists."

■ **Virginia Baptists** will consider a proposed 1993 budget this month that would allow churches to send contributions through the state convention to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Under the proposal, churches could direct their money to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, to the Fellowship or to a customized budget that funds both SBC causes and non-SBC causes.

■ **Correction:** A story on the inauguration of the new president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in the Recorder's Oct. 20 issue incorrectly identified Paul Pressler as a federal appeals court judge. He is a state appeals court judge from Houston.

## Parks writes missionaries, Kentuckians

RICHMOND, Va.—Despite claims to the contrary, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is undergoing significant changes in philosophy and methodology, according to Keith Parks, who said those changes influenced his decision to retire as president earlier than planned.

Parks explained his decision to retire in an Oct. 23 letter to the 3,900 FMB missionaries he supervised.

He also addressed the issue in another set of recent correspondence to two Kentucky pastors, Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, and Bill Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville and immediate past chairman of FMB trustees.

Trustees have replaced mission principles with "ultra-conservative" theology in decision-making, Parks wrote to the missionaries. Trustees also have stepped up scrutiny of new missionaries and staff members, he said.

The result, Parks wrote, is an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust and an expectation of conformity at the FMB.

He listed 10 changes made by the SBC's new conservative leadership he considers a danger to the integrity of foreign missions. (See box)

The dispute over Parks' leadership has been brewing for several years but came to a head in August 1991, when Parks revealed his vision for the FMB's future. Continuity of leadership was critical to the plan's success, he said at the time, and he asked the trustees to affirm his leadership until 1995.

Trustees agreed to study the request but gave him no vote of confidence. Seven months later, after again asking trustees to settle the issue of his tenure, Parks announced after a prayer retreat with trustees that God was leading him to leave.

Parks' letter to missionaries was

necessary, he said, because some trustees have insisted recently that he decided to step down despite their encouragement to stay. He decided to resign, he said, because trustees would not vote to affirm his leadership through 1995.

That issue was the focus of additional correspondence between Parks, DeFoor and Hancock recently.

In a letter to DeFoor, Hancock said "a minimum of 70 trustees" attending the meeting where Parks announced his retirement plans would have voted for Parks to remain as president. The board has 90 trustees.

"I, along with other trustees, personally appealed to him not to retire or resign," Hancock wrote DeFoor. "The trustees never had opportunity to vote."

Parks disagrees. After receiving a copy of the DeFoor letter from Hancock, Parks responded, saying he was "totally and completely perplexed" by Hancock's account. "If there were 70 trustees ready to affirm," Parks wrote, "I simply ask you why they didn't do it at the first of the meeting when \_\_\_\_\_ asked for a vote?"

The name of the trustee making the motion to affirm Parks during the closed-door session was deleted by Parks in copies of his letter sent to all trustees Oct. 22. Parks sent trustees copies of Hancock's letter to DeFoor and his response to Hancock, but he deleted the names of both men.

Parks' letter to Hancock and DeFoor outlined six opportunities during recent board meetings when he believed supportive trustees could have insisted on a clear statement of affirmation for the president, including two times such a motion was made but deferred.

Although Hancock's letter said at least 70 trustees were committed to vote in March, he told ABP Oct. 27 that would not have been proper during an informal prayer retreat. Such a

vote would properly have come at the trustees' regular business meeting a month later, Hancock said, but Parks announced his decision to retire before the vote could be taken.

Further, Hancock said, trustees had affirmed Parks the month before. On Feb. 10, the first day of a three-day meeting, trustees met privately with Parks and emerged with a statement affirming him and his seven mission principles but not the specific plan to stay until 1995.

Many staff members and trustees were "clicking their heels" that a conflict had been avoided with Parks, Hancock recalled, "and some of us told him he needed to affirm what the trustees had done."

Two days later, in his report to the board, Parks acknowledged the trustees' contributions to the FMB but not the specific direction in which they were leading the agency.

"I felt the trustees affirmed him and worked with him to get an extension," Hancock recalled, "(but) they did not get the proper affirmation from him."

Further, Parks hurt his chances of remaining as president until 1995 by not soliciting the support of trustee leaders before unveiling his vision and his request to the full trustee board in August 1991, Hancock said.

Current FMB trustee Chairman John Jackson took issue with Parks' letter to missionaries in a statement released through the FMB.

"I strongly disagree with the conclusions regarding philosophical differences found in (Parks') letter," said Jackson, a Fairfield, Calif., pastor. "I have no desire to attack Dr. Parks, but I do know the heart of trustees and feel compelled to defend them. ... Trustees would disagree with most of his allegations."

Reported by Robert Dilday and Greg Warner through Associated Baptist Press and Bob Stanley through Baptist Press

## Parks cites changes

In explaining why he is retiring as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Keith Parks listed these changes:

■ "A very large percentage" of Bible-believing Southern Baptists are excluded from service as trustees at SBC agencies by the denomination's new leaders.

■ "Ultra-conservative theological interpretations," not mission principles, are driving FMB trustee decisions.

■ "Suspicion, distrust, criticism and intimidation" have replaced trust and respect for differences.

■ "Freedom to disagree has been replaced by expectation of conformity."

■ "With fewer career missionaries seeking appointment, the trustees' increased emphasis on using volunteers is creating 'an imbalance overseas.'"

■ Trustees are increasingly involving themselves in FMB administrative decisions for which they lack "time, expertise, knowledge or experience."

■ Pressure on the FMB news staff to report only "positive" news threatens the staff's credibility.

■ Prospective staff members are asked to express loyalty to the trustees or the SBC "conservative resurgence."

■ Prospective missionaries are asked to affirm the four examples of biblical inerrancy cited in the SBC Peace Committee report.

■ Many good missionary candidates are not pursuing appointment because they disagree with changes at the FMB.

## Brotherhood board hears of ministry

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission heard reports of worldwide ministry programs and launched a \$10 million fund-raising campaign during their Oct. 23-24 meeting.

James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, said the ministry projects ranging from Central Asia to south Florida show a "radical, caring, Christian love" that must be offered before the gospel message can be accepted.

The \$10 million Opportunity Now capital campaign will establish a "program reserve fund" to support similar emergency ministry needs at home and abroad.

Trustees also approved a recommendation that Challengers, a new missions education program for young men in grades 7 through 12, begin in October 1994, replacing Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and High School Baptist Young Men.

## Another FMB vice president retires early

By Robert Dilday  
Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Citing a "growing tendency toward control and conformity" by trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Betty Law announced Oct. 22 she will retire as FMB vice president for the Americas.

Law, who turns 64 next month, will leave her post Jan. 15—"earlier than I had originally intended"—she announced in a letter to President Keith Parks, who himself was to retire Oct. 31 for many of the same reasons.

However, the trustee who supervises Law's area of work denied he and his colleagues are attempting to impose greater control and conformity on FMB staff and missionaries.

Law, the first and only female to serve as an FMB vice president, has held her position since 1990. She and her husband served as missionaries for 25 years in Cuba and Spain until his death in 1980.

Because of recent changes in board philosophy and attitude, Law wrote in her resignation letter, "I do not feel I can, with integrity, continue to serve as vice president."

"I cannot, as I have in the past, support and defend the actions, directions and views of the trustees or fairly interpret these to the missionaries and staff in the Americas region and to Southern Baptists as I speak about our foreign mission work."

Law is the second of the board's five regional vice presidents to step down earlier than planned this year. Isam Balenger resigned in January as vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, claiming trustees' defunding of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, indicated a global "fundamentalist" agenda.

But Law's early retirement appears motivated by more general philosophical concerns.

Her resignation comments reflect discontent with perceived attempts by

trustees to impose viewpoints on Baptists overseas without prior consultation and with trustees' growing emphasis on mission volunteers at the expense of career missionaries.

"In the past, the Foreign Mission Board has focused on the career missionary and partnership with nationals in the countries..." she wrote in her letter. "This philosophy of work has been effective and given unusual strength, stability and growth worldwide. Now this focus is shifting to meeting the needs of our own constituency rather than the needs as indicated from the field."

Omar Pachecano, chairman of the trustees' Americas committee, said he regretted Law's resignation.

But he said he could not agree with her perception that trustees are attempting to impose greater control and conformity on staff and missionaries.

"I have never seen trustees as people who micromanage," said Pachecano. "I've never tried to tell her, 'This is what I want you to do.'"

In her letter, Law did not specify what her future plans may entail.



Betty Law

## Vision & supernatural touch cited for church growth

By Mark Wingfield  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Vision, Sunday school, families and God's supernatural power are keys to church growth cited by Elmer Towns and Ken Hemphill at a Louisville conference Oct. 22.

Towns, dean at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and Hemphill, church growth director with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, spoke at Highview Baptist Church's "Church in the 21st Century" conference. They were among 13 keynote speakers at the three-day meeting.

Both men presented individual messages, then joined in a question-and-answer session with David Dockery, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The bottom line for church growth is not methods or marketing, Hemphill stressed. "Genuine, lasting church growth is a supernatural event. Methods and marketing cannot replace the supernatural touch of the hand of God."

Hemphill advises all who seek church growth to begin with intensive prayer, both individually and as a congregation. Pastors make a mistake when they copy someone else's plan for church growth without finding out what God's plan is for their particular church, he warned.

"Get your people praying together first," Hemphill said. "Good church growth is slow. Spend some time. Let your people catch the vision from God."

Once that is understood, there are some things common to growing churches, Towns and Hemphill said.

Here's a summary of some of their

advice:

■ **Families.** Modern churches can be built by building strong families, Towns said. He cited a 1989 Gallup poll finding that 76 percent of all new church members in America are between the ages of 18 and 36. "Those who are really being reached for Christ are the young adults. They are coming back to God's house, and we can reach them if we do it right."

Churches that reach young families provide help for their marriages, families and finances, Towns said.

■ **Vision.** "The first step to build a great church of God is a dream in the heart of the man of God," Towns said. "You never build great churches on history lessons. You build great churches based on what God can do."

Hemphill agreed, explaining there are three kinds of churches: undertakers, caretakers and risk-takers. "The church that God uses says, 'I will risk anything for the sake of the gospel, for the sake of the Great Commission,'" he said.

■ **Sunday school.** The Sunday school in the past was the steeple of the church but now is the foundation, Towns said. He explained that the symbolic steeple of a church is the thing that stands out from far away to draw people in.

In modern churches, worship is more likely to draw outsiders into church than Sunday school, but strong Bible study classes are essential to growth and health, he added. "The platform will attract, but small groups will bond people to the church."

■ **Homogeneous groups.** The small groups that bond people to a church work best when the people in the group have things in common, Hemphill said.

For example, he suggested young couples with children have different

needs than young couples without children. "For a young couple without children, going out for a night on the town means going out for a night on the town. But for a young couple with children, a night out means finding a McDonald's with a playground."

■ **Committed teachers.** Sunday school teachers are the extension of the pastor into the congregation, Towns said, and must be impressed with the vital role they play. "Everything the pastor is to his congregation, the teacher is to his or her class."

Teachers ought to be facilitators of Bible learning and discussion, he said, as well as caregivers and disciplers.

Teachers also ought to be both men and women, Towns said. He cited the successful model of Second Baptist Church in Houston, where every adult class has male and female co-teachers.

■ **Repeat visitors.** Towns teaches a "law of three hearings," which says unchurched people are most likely to become a part of the church and stick with it if their decision is made after at least three visits. This means that getting people in the door of the church the first time still is important but is not the end of the task, he said.

■ **Outreach.** Towns also preaches a "law of seven touches," which says church visitors need to be "touched" by church members seven times during the week after their visit. "Research shows that the church that sends just one letter probably doesn't make much of an impact," he said.

■ **Preschool program.** The preschool division is "the most critical area in staffing and growing a church," Hemphill said. "It is essential to reaching young couples."

When assigning space and making renovations, make preschool the top

priority, he advised. "Adults are just about flexible enough to meet anywhere if they know their kids are well cared for."

■ **Multiple services.** By the turn of the century, 50 percent of all churches will offer multiple services, Towns predicted. This trend contributes to better stewardship of a church's facilities and helps bring in people who either cannot or will not attend church at traditional times, both he and Hemphill said.

Worship for times other than Sunday mornings must be planned with specific people in mind, Hemphill advised. Although others may come, people such as real estate agents, police officers and military personnel are prime targets for other-than-Sunday worship, he suggested.

■ **Church elsewhere.** The old model of church growth sought to bring people into the church building, but the new model calls for taking the church outside the building, Towns said. As an example of doing this successfully, he cited First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, which has more than 200 satellite congregations meeting in apartment complexes.

■ **Get ready for Busters.** While much attention has been focused on the Baby Boomer generation, churches must begin to focus on the Baby Busters, people born between 1965 and 1983, Towns said.

And the two generations are significantly different, he explained: Boomers had great dreams but Busters have seen dreams shattered; Boomers pushed for peace, but their children are violent.

■ **World vision.** Growing churches look beyond themselves to see the needs of the community and the world, Hemphill said.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association** will hold its Nov. 9 meeting at the Kentucky Baptist Building, 10701 Shelbyville Rd. in Louisville rather than at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as previously reported.

■ **Health screenings** will be offered by Baptist Hospital East for messengers and visitors to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 10-11. Free screenings will check cholesterol, blood pressure and for colorectal cancer and diabetes. Information will be available on self exams for breast cancer and testicular cancer. The screenings will be offered both days from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the exhibit area at St. Matthews Baptist Church.

## Bowling Green has counseling center

Continued from page 1

stone also will offer seminars on topics such as parenting, he said.

Even though the service initially will have one counselor available only two days a week, Dorris said he believes it will expand beyond that quickly. "We think it will outgrow itself in nothing flat. The need is there."

A similar venture already is under consideration in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, Parker said, and she hopes other associations will consider the possibility as well.

Since January, Parker has been assessing Christian counseling services across the state. The needs she found are great, she reported.

Helping churches and associations provide counseling services is a natural extension of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministries, Parker explained. "It's an effort to meet family needs before they get out of control. ... It's prevention."

The agency plans to focus on Warren Association and Northern Kentucky Association this year, then on two other areas in each of the next two years, for a total of at least six counseling centers statewide within three years.

## SBC's church growth leader learned a lesson at Wolf Creek

LOUISVILLE—A small Kentucky church taught Ken Hemphill an important lesson about church growth, he said.

Hemphill, who now serves as church growth director with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board, spoke at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville Oct. 23.

Prior to assuming that post, he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., which quadrupled in size during his tenure.

But it was the lesson about vision he learned as a student pastor at Wolf Creek Baptist Church in Battletown that started him on this course, he said.

While a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Hemphill served the church, which averaged 28 in Sunday morning attendance and about five or six on Sunday evenings, he recalled.

Encouraged by a seminary professor to help his people "redream the dream" of their mission, he announced one Sunday that the next Sunday night they would talk about their dreams for the church's future.

That night, the parking lot was packed when he arrived, he related. "We were the only show in town. Anything we did would draw the numbers."

When Hemphill opened the floor for discussion, an awkward silence prevailed for

two or three minutes, he said. Finally, a man stood up and said he thought the church needed a basketball court.

The suggestion struck the young pastor as irrelevant, Hemphill explained. "I'm thinking about baptisms and Sunday school space, and this guy wants a basketball court."

But after a moment of inspiration from God, Hemphill realized the idea had some merit, he said. So he told the man that was a good idea, much to everyone's surprise.

That affirmation opened the floodgate for all kinds of ideas, Hemphill said. Even though the church had no youth, members decided they should have a youth choir with uniforms and a bus for traveling. Members also said they thought it was time to waterproof the basement and install indoor plumbing.

By the time the dream session was over, a long list of items had been accumulated.

But afterward, Hemphill said, he realized he didn't know how the church could accomplish any of the ideas because there was no money available.

However, he soon discovered surplus materials were available from Fort Knox to waterproof the basement. So he called a church work day.

When no one showed up, Hemphill found a young man who recently had become a Christian and enlisted his help and the help of

some of his friends who weren't church members or Christians.

As church members drove by during the day, they got excited about what was happening and stopped to help. And by the end of the day, the first project on the dream list was done.

That evening, a man who had been there helping said to Hemphill, "What are we going to do next?" The question struck the pastor as odd since the man wasn't even a church member.

When he told the man he didn't know how the church could afford to build a basketball court, the man explained that his business was finishing concrete and he would take care of the supplies.

After 18 months, the church had accomplished every item on its dream list, Hemphill said, and more than 40 people had been baptized into the congregation.

"What happened? The people had a great vision that came from an encounter with God," he explained. "It was not the preaching. It had nothing to do with organizational skill or ability."

The moral of the story is this, Hemphill said: When God's people look to him for guidance and begin to dream, they can accomplish many things they never thought possible.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3*

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## Thank you, Dr. Marshall

One of the responsibilities of the administrative committee of the Executive Board for the Kentucky Baptist Convention is the annual review of the executive secretary-treasurer, William Marshall.

Having undertaken that task, we were moved to re-

port our evaluation to Dr. Marshall in committee and to write to him a letter of our great regard for him and his leadership. Further, we were unanimous in our determination to tell all the people of the Kentucky Baptist Convention of our evaluation of high

regard for our leader.

First, we wish to affirm his leadership, which has been steady despite controversy, determined despite eroding Cooperative Program funding,

patient despite tensions from within and without, and marked with com-

passion.

He was found by his peers to have completed his assigned task in such an excellent fashion that his ratings were almost so high that they exceeded his job expectations. These reviews were so positive that the only rebuke to-

ward his leadership was that he worked too hard. From that, we suggested that we expected him to delegate more and take more opportunity to give overview to the mission of the convention.

Dr. Marshall is entering his 10th year as our executive secretary-treasurer. We are most fortunate to have him with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Thank you, Dr. Marshall, for a decade of outstanding leadership.

*Herbert R. Booth, chairman  
KBC Administrative Committee  
Florence*

## BAPTIST FORUM

## Celebrating good things in Kentucky

In the midst of economic recession, it would do us all "a heap o' good" to hear a positive word or two.

So, I thought you might enjoy a review of the "Good News Report" which I have sent to the 175-member Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. Kentucky Baptists can authentically celebrate some good things happening among us.

Cooperative Program receipts from the churches in September reached \$1,436,373, the highest September in our history and the best start of a new financial year in more than 10 years.

The WMU Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions exceeded the goal of \$650,000 by \$7,354. And receipts for this year's offering are off to a good start.

The thanksgiving offering for children reached \$793,957 this past year, more than 6 percent over the prior year's offering of \$740,067.

Super Saturday was launched this summer by the KBC church growth and administration division. The event, conducted on five Saturdays in five locations, involved 261 churches from 61 associations with a registered attendance of 1,463. A comprehensive training program for church leaders, Super Saturday has been scheduled for six locations in 1993.

The Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Eastern Kentucky anticipates enrolling more than 200 children in their "Backyard Bible Clubs" by Christmas. State missionaries Greg and Alice Whitetree direct this ministry.

MissionsFest, sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the KBC, was conducted at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Sept. 11-12. Registration exceeded 2,700, with an aggregate attendance estimated to have exceeded 3,000. Scores of public commitments were made.

Foreign Mission Board personnel, in Kentucky for MissionsFest, made a tour of several college campuses, having the opportunity to speak to more than 1,500 Baptist Student Union students about career and short-term missionary service.

All goals set for BSU student attendance at MissionsFest were exceeded. One young BSU student, who is deaf, made a decision to serve in foreign missions as a minister to the

deaf.

A Fall Festival of Marriage was conducted in Louisville Sept. 18-20. Couples from a 12-state area participated. This year's attendance of 341 was the largest yet. Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, the Gheens Center for Family Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the KBC family ministry department, the event aims to strengthen Christian marriages and foster healthy families.

Ministry to migrant workers in our state has increased significantly this year, particularly through the work of the Henry County and Blood River Baptist associations. This ministry, encouraged and supported by the direct missions department, is intended to touch as many as possible of the estimated 10,000 migrant workers who come to our state.

Two hundred fifty-seven high school youth came from many places the week of July 17 as part of World Changers, a Woman's Missionary Union-Brotherhood sponsored ministry for co-ed high school students. They repaired 20 homes of people who could not help themselves. In the process, they led six people to faith in the Lord, and Mayor Jerry Abramson made each youth an honorary citizen of Louisville.

On Sept. 2, the KBC disaster relief team responded to Hurricane Andrew. An estimated 264,000 meals will have been served; over 30,000 "Care Kits for Disaster Victims," made up by our churches, have been distributed. At least 125 people have received Christ, according to the reports received by more than 200 Kentuckians who participated in the relief efforts.

Our state Baptist Bible drills this year involved 564 children, including 141 in the seventh- to ninth-grade grouping and 30 senior-high students.

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly reports a record year of attendance, 5,323, as compared to last year's 3,984. With a significant increase in the number of overnight guests and camper days, income from lodging and food service increased by \$32,000; 302 decisions were registered during summer camp activities, including 120 professions of faith.

The Youth Evangelism Confer-

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



## FAMILY FORUM: AGING

### Seniors & children

By John Lepper

**Q.** I teach children. How can I help them better understand and relate to senior adults?

**A.** A recent book which provides both a social and personal picture of seniors is "Age Wave," by Ken Dychtwald. While this book is not a book you can use with the children, it will help you become better informed about characteristics of the elderly.

Dr. Dychtwald explodes numerous myths about aging. Two interesting perceptions many younger people, including adults, have about senior adults is that most older people are in poor health and that all older people are pretty much the same. The fact is, only a small fraction of the elderly are frail. Most older people are vigorous and energetic, though not as much as children.

The idea that most older people are pretty much the same could not be further from the truth. No age group possesses more varied physical, financial and social attributes than the elderly. As we age, our differences seem to be accentuated.

Help children understand the diversity of older people. As you begin this process, consider asking for help from older people. To accomplish this, invite senior adults to your children's class. Before you do, take some time to help the children write questions to ask the older people. Questions might include: What would you like children to know about older people? Do you like hugs from children? What was it like when you were a child? What's it like being an older person?

The children will have little difficulty asking questions. Your job is to help them focus their questions. You may also need to interpret and clarify answers.

You could also provide a period of time in which the older people ask questions of the children. Following this session, a time of talking about what happened and what was heard would reinforce the learning. This one experience could be the beginning of regular "intergenerational" activities.

*John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.*

Send your questions about children, teens, marriage, singles or aging to "Family Forum," Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

ence, June 19-20, drew an estimated attendance of 5,500. There were 250 reported decisions, with 151 receiving Christ as Savior.

This year has been a record year for volunteer activity in the Brazil Partnership. Around 260 volunteers will have participated, bringing the total participation over these three years to just over 700. Twenty chapels have been built, and more than \$100,000 has been donated by churches and individuals for numerous projects.

One example of how the annuity department serves Kentucky Baptist churches and ministers is noted by a pastor who shared that after a visit with our representative, Don Spencer, he was saved \$700 in income taxes simply by restructuring his salary package in cooperation with the church and in keeping with IRS regulations.

Family ministry Director John Lepper's book, "When Crisis Comes Home," was published this summer by Convention Press in Nashville. Congratulations to John!

Last year in Kentucky, 25,077 prospects were reported to have been gathered by our churches through vacation Bible school. The number of baptisms reported during Bible school last year was 2,278, or 13.4 percent of the total baptisms reported.

The 65th anniversary of student ministry in Kentucky was held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oct. 2-4. This convention was the largest to be held in Kentucky, with 1,307 students who registered. There were almost 400 decisions made during the time of commitment on Saturday night. These included professions of faith, recommitments, a call into missions and other church-related vocations. We are already receiving word from other campuses that decisions are continuing to be made on a one-to-one basis because of the BSU convention.

Results from the nine youth weeks at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies, conducted by the student department, are a fitting close to this report. New records were set: 138 churches; 2,056 registrants; 203 staff leadership; 2,269 total attendance; and 97 professions of faith.

We rejoice in this "good news," recognizing that there are many more "good news" stories to be told by our churches, associations and Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies.

*William W. Marshall is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

## Parks' farewell: Cautionary words for the KBC

Prophetic words—words that proclaim God's truth to human beings—often fall uncomfortably on our ears.

Keith Parks spoke volumes of prophetic words during his 12-year tenure as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Time after time, he described the challenge of presenting the gospel to every person on earth. He urged us to consider God's call to missions, to support our missionaries with tithes and offerings, and to pray for those missionaries and the people they have gone to serve. His message always demanded response.

Parks took early retirement last week, completing 38 years of missions service but ending his ministry with the board three years ahead of schedule. One of his last actions before leaving office was to send a letter to each of his missionary colleagues, explaining why he quit. (Stories about that letter are printed on page 2 of this issue of the Western Recorder.)

Parks' letter to the missionaries includes a list of 10 changes he has seen at the board in the last few years. Most specifically relate to the board and the way it conducts its affairs. But at least three statements reflect broader changes in Baptist life. They work on at least two levels. First, they describe the Southern Baptist situation. Second, they provide cautionary advice for other Baptists, such as the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They are worth repeating:

■ "The most important, most incredible (change) is that a very large percentage of Bible-believing, theologically conservative Southern Baptists no longer have appropriate representation on boards of trustees. Their money is still solicited, but not their representatives nor any contribution of convictions or viewpoints. Southern Baptists desperately need both groups ..."

At the SBC level, we have lost a tremendous resource by declaring about half our people unfit for leadership. Identification with one of the denomination's political parties—validated by one's support for the "conservative resurgence"—has been the litmus test for leadership. Consequently, vast numbers of committed, experienced leaders have been turned away. At a time when missions and evangelism challenges are their greatest, the SBC has been trying to row its boat with only half its oars in the water.

Fortunately, the KBC has not experienced this deep division. Folks of all theological/political persuasions still provide leadership. We have not stooped to single-issue litmus-testing in order to cull our leadership. Unfortunately, the temptation to "divide and conquer" hangs ominously.

For moderates, the temptation is to control the KBC annual meeting—votes on officers, important business matters, resolutions, etc. Thankfully, they have stepped back from total dominance. For example, in 1990 they left one slot on their "un-slate" of nominees for convention officers open, instead of challenging every nominee touted by conservatives. And last year, when they had won every vote, they refrained from pushing through a final issue that would have been completely frustrating to conservatives.

For conservatives, the temptation is to try to "pack" the KBC Executive Board with like-minded members. Nominees to the board come from each district association. If a group could control the associations, it could control nominees to the board and eventually control that vital component of KBC life. Some observers believe this is the conservatives' best chance to impact the convention. But many Baptists across Kentucky still hold back from such strong-armed politics, and the board continues to represent a broad cross-section of the convention.

■ "An atmosphere of trust and respect for differences of viewpoints has been replaced by suspicion, distrust, criticism and intimidation."

The most notable manifestation of this has been the atmosphere at board meetings of SBC agencies. Tension has been thick and oppressive. Members of opposing political parties have eyed each other warily. New trustees have held longtime employees at bay, suspicious of their motives and sometimes appearing doubtful of their salvation. Similarly, longtime trustees have questioned the quality of new employees hired by the new conservative majority. People have been "branded" by their apparent affiliations.

The KBC has avoided the worst of this partisan spirit. We enjoy the benefit of being small enough to know each other personally and to look beyond political labels and see attitudes and convictions of the heart.

We have demonstrated we can work together on common challenges, even as we agree to disagree on specific issues. By seeing each other close-up and then backing up to see our common tasks, we maintain balance.

Still, that partisan spirit crops up from time to time. A conservative pastor told a KBC worker the worker "made a mistake" by joining a church of which the pastor disapproved. A moderate pastor declined to support an issue simply because it was promoted by a well-known conservative. Even Kentucky Baptists, with our history of being able to get along, must beware the debacle of mistrust and suspicion that comes with partisan labels.

■ "Freedom to disagree has been replaced by expectation of conformity. When issues or problems cannot be discussed honestly, they cannot be dealt with productively or solved."

To paraphrase an old adage: Where two or more Baptists are gathered together, there three or more opinions will be also. Baptists always have been a strong-minded, independent lot. We have honored the priesthood of every believer, trusting the power of the Holy Spirit and the integrity of the individual. That freedom to disagree has enabled us to move forward together, even when we couldn't march in step.

The "expectation of conformity" Parks described is foreign to Baptist heritage. It smacks of hierarchical church government from which Baptists have dissented for almost four centuries. Supporters of the new conformity cite Scripture, "God is not the author of confusion." Then they assume they are the ones who understand God, so the others necessarily are wrong. Baptists' historical "freedom to disagree" is steeped in humility—we may be strong-minded and fervent in our beliefs, but not so arrogant to assume we have a corner on the market of truth. This "freedom to disagree" has provided the way out of many otherwise hopeless confrontations, by providing a forum to discuss our disagreements and settle them by consensus.

Kentucky Baptists will experience that freedom next week, as we meet for our KBC annual meeting in Louisville. We already know we will not find total agreement on all the issues before us. But as we agree to disagree and resolve to work out all those disagreements in harmony, we will foster the spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood that can continue to bind us together.

Keith Parks ended his formal career on a prophetic note. His words of warning may be too late for the SBC, which already has suffered tremendous division. But they must be a cautionary tale for Kentucky Baptists, reminding us to step back from hopeless division and step toward Christ-like love and grace.

Marv Knox

**Kentucky Baptists must learn from the Southern Baptist Convention's mistakes. We must avoid hopeless division and work together in Christ-like love and grace.**

## Silence isn't exactly golden if you're the one keeping quiet

This husband/daddy did his part to promote peace and harmony last week.

I got laryngitis.

A weekend of leaf-raking and lawn-mowing brought on the whole dreadful episode. The dust from a zillion leaves flew up my snout, clogged up my sinuses, slid down my throat and cordoned off my vocal cords.

(Have you ever noticed how the most beautiful seasons—spring and autumn—are the most deathly on the parts of your body that enable you to keep on breathing? Call it the balance of nature: What our eyes enjoy most our sinuses, throats and lungs can't stand.)

For three or four days—it seemed like a lifetime—I could barely squeak, much less

gripe, argue or yell. Not that I'm a major-league yeller. Mother always said yelling doesn't accomplish any good purpose, so it was forbidden at our house. Still, despite the handicap of being yelling-impaired as a youth, I've been known to growl around the house from time to time.

During the most-mute moments of my affliction, I was reduced to communicating with Joanna, Lindsay and Molly via whistles, tongue clicks and hand signals. Betsy the dog seemed to be the only one who un-

derstood me, and she definitely was the only one who never laughed.

Meanwhile, the three human females in my life seemed perfectly content to buzz right on with their busy conversations.

Only when I tried to peep into their discussion did they slow down, usually long enough for Molly or Lindsay to command: "Don't talk, Daddy. You'll hurt your throat." They always thought that was funny.

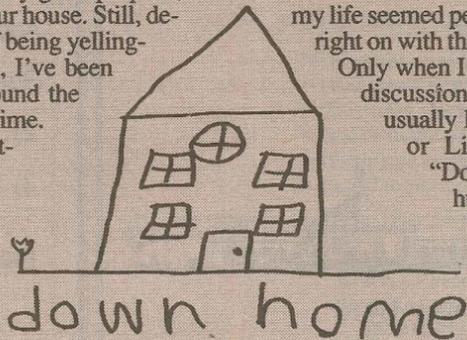
Fortunately, my sinus-imposed silence wasn't a total waste of time. I discovered three things last week:

One, you can learn more by listening than by talking. Maybe it was because they had 25 percent more air-time to fill, but for some reason the girls seemed to talk more about themselves at meal times. I picked up good information about school from my quiet post at the end of the dinner table.

Two, whoever said "silence is golden" was only half right. Silence, when you're trying to get someone to pass the potatoes, is downright frustrating. It's other people's silence that sparkles.

Three, you never miss some things until you don't have them anymore. I always took something as simple as my voice for granted, until I lost it. Now that I've found it again, I hope I use it more constructively.

Marv Knox



## Dobson calls for boycott of Madonna's publisher & printer

### Pentagon studies possible ban on porn

WASHINGTON (EP)—Stung by the Navy "Tailhook" sexual harassment scandal, Pentagon lawyers are studying whether the military can or should ban the sale of sexually explicit materials on military bases. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the review raises First Amendment questions as well as issues of command responsibility, good order and discipline. The review was prompted when the commander of a Navy training center in Orlando, Fla., ordered pornographic magazines removed from base stores. Playboy magazine appealed the action, saying it violated the publication's constitutional rights. Former U.S. Senator William Armstrong, R-Colo., tried without success to get former President Ronald Reagan to issue an executive order to remove pornographic magazines from military PXs in the mid-1980s.

NASHVILLE (BP)—Incensed over Madonna's controversial "Sex" coffee-table book, author and broadcaster James Dobson has called for a boycott of Time Warner Inc.

Warner Books, a subsidiary of New York City-based Time Warner, is the book's publisher. More than 800,000 copies of the book—in six languages—were placed on the market Oct. 21.

Dobson also called for a boycott of the book's printer, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Co. of Chicago. Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, has printed numerous books for Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Donnelley also was the printer of 40,000 copies of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Annual and 12,000 copies of the SBC Book of Reports, both published by the Nashville-based SBC Executive Committee.

In addition, Donnelley does extensive business with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, including Bible printing.

Dobson said the Madonna book "is, without question, the most outrageous single event that has occurred in my lifetime with reference to teenagers especially."

The book "should be a major concern to every parent in this country," Dobson said during his Oct. 27 national radio broadcast.

The Madonna book is "not just air-brushed nudity," Dobson said. "It's filled with perversions of the most explicit type."

Dobson said the book will be seen by "millions of kids" and will stir them "to do things that ultimately will destroy the family."

Of Donnelley, the printer, Dobson said, "We're not going to do business with them any more."

Morris Chapman, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said contracts have not been negotiated this year for the work Donnelley did last for the SBC last year.

Jimmy Draper, president of the Sunday School Board, said he was "outraged" that two of the board's suppliers, Donnelley and Rand McNally, which owns a bindery, were involved with the book.

Rand McNally already has promised the Sunday School Board they will not be involved in such projects in the future, but Donnelley has not yet made such a commitment, Draper said.

The Sunday School Board "stands solidly and forcefully for biblical and family values," he added. "Our decision about future involvement with these companies will be consistent with our commitment to these Christian ideals."

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**NEEDED:** Pulpit search committee of First Baptist Church of Middletown, Ky., is seeking a pastor. If interested send resumé to First Baptist Church c/o John Vaughan, 11721 Main St., Louisville, Ky. 40243.

**WANTED:** Red River Association seeks full or part-time Director of Missions. Send resumé to: George Drake, 836 Maple St., Stanton, Ky. 40380.

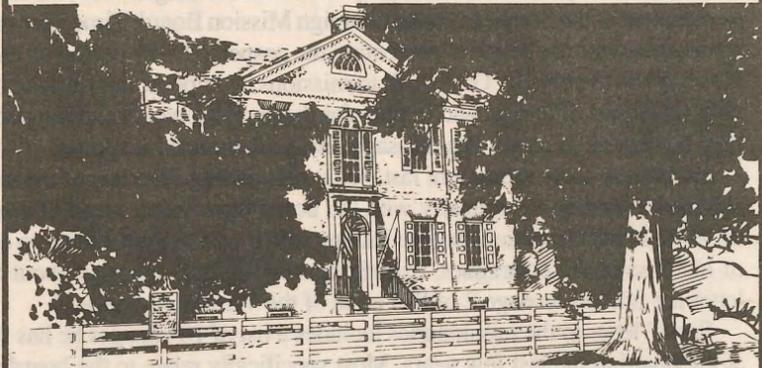
**SEEKING:** Part-time Minister of Music. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Fairview Baptist Church, 6426 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, Ky. 40489.

**WANTED:** First Baptist, Clay, Ky., is seeking a full-time Minister of Youth and Music. Send resumé to: FBC c/o Bob White, Box 485, Clay, Ky. 42404.

**WANTED:** Pulpit search committee seeks resumé for pastor. Send information to: Auburn Baptist Church c/o Gary Woodall, P.O. Box 67, Auburn, Ky. 42206.

**WANTED:** Desire lady age 45-65 to share lovely home. Private bedroom and bath. Must be able to drive, do light housekeeping; no smoking or drinking. References exchanged. (502) 228-8581.

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### Reply Form

Deadline: November 4th, 1992

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for me at Breakfast.

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Guests' Names: 1) \_\_\_\_\_

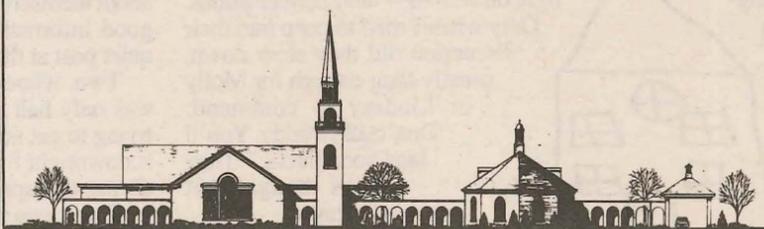
2) \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send this form to: Cumberland College  
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Williamsburg, KY 40769-1390

"Surely the Lord is in this place..."

Genesis 28:16b



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# KENTUCKY

## Money matters will dominate convention business

Continued from page 1

committee when the SBC severely curtailed and subsequently dropped its support for the committee. Until then, the KBC had helped finance the committee through its contributions to the national Cooperative Program.

The first move to provide Kentucky support came in 1990, when the convention considered creating an endowment for the Baptist Joint Committee with \$25,000 and also providing a one-time direct gift of \$17,358 to the committee, to make up for lost revenue that year. That motion failed, 834-921. Last year, messengers approved the "find a way to provide funds" motion by a 331-195 vote, placing the issue in the hands of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board created a special workgroup to develop a proposal. Its recommendation will be presented to the board Nov. 9, the afternoon before the annual meeting.

The proposal calls for creating a "special-purpose, board-designated" fund, financed by unspent funds from the KBC budget, as well as unrestricted earnings on investments.

The fund would require an estimated \$200,000 initial investment, spread over two years if possible, to provide an annual return of about \$17,000. That amount about equals the KBC's contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee before the SBC cut its support. The fund would be managed by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation on behalf of the convention, which would own the account.

The proposal has drawn protests from at least two Baptist associations, Blood River and Little Bethel, and one church, Grace Baptist in Murray.

Conservative opponents have said they don't want any KBC funds to go to the Baptist Joint Committee after the SBC has severed relationships with the Washington organization. Some moderate opponents have said they feel the support is insufficient and would like to see the committee get a line item in the KBC budget.

The proposal's supporters believe

it will strengthen the convention.

"This resolution ... forges a compromise that will move to the back burner issues about which we cannot at present come to consensus," said Mike Thomason, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Glasgow and chairman of the special workgroup.

"This resolution allows the Executive Board to fulfill the convention's action and to move ahead with our greater mission with respect and support for both points of view."

The proposal will take effect if it is approved by the Executive Board. But, in that event, opponents have said they will ask the KBC to rescind its 1991 vote and nullify the Executive Board action.

Among other major points of focus at next week's meeting are:

■ **KBC presidency.** Two laymen with broad experience in Baptist life are expected to be nominated for the convention's presidency.

Charles Barnes, a bank executive from Louisville, and Herbert Booth, a retired physician from Florence, both told the Western Recorder they would allow themselves to be nominated.

"I have indicated to a number of friends around the state that I am available to serve Kentucky Baptists in a way that would be meaningful and advance the work of our convention," said Barnes, a member of East Baptist Church. "Whether that would work out at this time, I don't know."

"I feel it's a position that ought to seek the person, rather than the person seeking the position."

Barnes is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation board of directors and has served four terms on the board of Cumberland College. He is a trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and was moderator of Long Run Baptist Association in 1983.

"Several people have talked to me about the presidency," said Booth, a member of Florence Baptist Church. "While I have not actively sought the office, I have not shirked it, either."

"From a very personal standpoint,

I feel there should be an opportunity for laypeople, recognizing the chairmanship of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is largely a ministerial position. These are times in which a layman could function perhaps with less restraints than some of the pastors."

Booth is chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children board of directors and chairman of the KBC Executive Board's administrative committee. He was moderator of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association in 1991.

Barnes and Booth both said the presidency should not be politicized, as it has been in the SBC and other states, and the KBC two years ago.

"I have no agenda, and I do not feel obligated to any side of the controversy," Booth said. "As a physician, I like to think of myself as a healer and one to bring people together."

"I don't feel the presidency should be a highly politicized job a person ought to seek," added Barnes.

Although some observers have speculated one or more pastors might be nominated for the presidency, none of those rumors could be confirmed last week. If a layperson is elected, he will be only the third lay president in recent KBC history.

■ **College trustees.** Messengers will hear the first reading of a proposal to expand the trustee boards of the KBC's four colleges—Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown and Clear Creek—to allow each of them to seat a maximum of eight Baptist trustees from out of state.

Currently, college trustees must be active members of Kentucky Baptist churches. The proposed addition of eight out-of-state trustees offers numerous advantages to the schools, said Jim Taylor, president of Cumberland College: "These new trustees would give us access to congregations that we don't have access to now. In addition, they could provide contact with pools of prospective students, pools of prospective donors and broader spheres of influence. It just makes sense."

The prospective out-of-state trustees would be elected by the same procedure that regulates election of current trustees: Recommendation of the college presidents, nomination by the KBC nominating committee and election by messengers to the annual meeting.

The proposal has no correlation to recent moves by Baptist schools in other states to sever ties with their state conventions, Taylor said: "Those schools that have left their state conventions are wealthy institutions. We're loyal to the KBC; we want all the Baptist support we can get."

■ **Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** The Foundation will ask messengers to approve policy changes that would expand the range of its operations.

Currently, it only is free to serve churches and organizations "having the official sanction" of the KBC. The proposed guidelines would also allow the Foundation to serve any Baptist church or organization approved by its board of directors "and whose purpose is not in conflict with (KBC) causes." They also would allow it to manage funds benefitting similarly qualified non-Baptist causes if the causes are recipients of gifts of which the majority portion goes to Baptist causes.

In another measure, the Foundation will seek a revision in its covenant agreement with the KBC to bring the Foundation's stated policy for the nomination of its directors in line with current practice and the policies of the other KBC agencies and institutions.

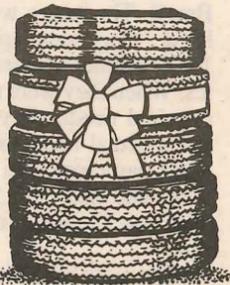
■ **KBC budget.** Messengers will vote on a 1993-94 KBC Cooperative Program operating budget of \$17,337,909, the same amount as the current budget.

The budget would be divided, with 62.969 percent going to KBC causes and 37.304 percent going to SBC causes.

The proposal also includes a challenge goal of \$1.3 million. It also would be divided, with 24.045 percent going to the KBC and 75.955 going to the SBC.



### This Christmas, help re-tire a missionary.



A good set of tires determines whether or not missionaries Marvin and Linda Leech in Bengkulu, Indonesia, can do their job.

Tires provided by Lottie Moon Christmas Offering funds enable the Leeches to travel in their four-wheel-drive vehicle to carry the gospel throughout the country. They work each weekend in a new church; offer leadership training programs; and visit Indonesian friends to share the plan of salvation.

The Leeches travel at least 10,000 "hard" miles a year. For instance, a 180-mile trip in Indonesia could take up to 13 hours. Pray that God will continue to protect the Leeches from danger and accidents in their day-to-day ministry.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
National Goal: \$84 million



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## Mission trip brings healing

ASHLAND—With a new spin on an old saying, a youth mission team from Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church learned this summer that the Lord helps those who help each other.

The Kentucky group was paired with an Ohio church in need of healing from internal struggles, said Steve Evans, associate pastor of music at Rose Hill and coordinator of the summer youth mission trip.

The Rose Hill team had "gone through a low period for our group, too," he explained.

However, the mission trip helped heal wounds in both churches, Evans said.

He and Gary Southard, associate pastor of education at Rose Hill, worked closely with James Pinkley, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Sidney, Ohio, to plan the summer ministry.

Activities during the week kept the 26 youth and seven adults busy: they led four backyard Bible clubs in the mornings, presented puppet shows and musical concerts to the community in the afternoons and held a youth rally at the church each evening.

The teams enrolled a total of 104 children in the four Bible clubs. Also, 26 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the week.

Although evening services focused on the youth, they were open to everyone, Evans said. He estimated 100-125 people were in attendance each night—double the church's average Sunday school attendance of 60.

Evans said the effectiveness of their ministry was at least in part due to how well the church and the team worked together and reached out to each other as well as to the community. Team leaders fostered this by allowing time for fellowship between the Faith Church and the mission team.

"We made it our goal not to be strangers while we were there," Evans said. "We wanted to show them we cared about them."

One of the results of that camaraderie was a later trip when Faith Baptist youth visited Ashland and worshiped with the youth at Rose Hill.

Evans said he has noticed the team members now express a renewed interest in serving and a renewed interest in each other. "It's amazing how people can put aside personal differences in order to accomplish a mission together."



**PASSING THE KEYS** Ron Whitaker (second from left) presents the keys to a van to Don Bratcher, pastor of New Liberty Mission and coordinator of a jail ministry at the Daviess County Detention Center. Whitaker is Brotherhood director at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro. Yellow Creek Church donated the van, along with two new tires, and payment of transfer fees, to the mission's ministry.

## Bounty of thanksgiving

"In all things give thanks," Paul wrote.

But it is not always that easy to give thanks. For children who are hurting and for those who have been robbed of the gifts that so many of us take for granted, giving thanks must seem especially difficult.

But when Baptists across the state poured out their love through gifts of food during our Annual Food Roundup, youth spoke words of appreciation about the food that had come from hundreds of caring Baptists across the state.

KBHC joins with these children, each one precious in His sight, to express our gratitude to you for your faithfulness to our ministry to Kentucky's children.

We give thanks for people like Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kahne from Ashland's First Baptist Church. The Kahnes volunteered to help collect food throughout Eastern Kentucky. And we are grateful for Bill Burden, J.G. Lile, Billy Engler and Hildred Fulkerson, members of Pond Run Baptist Church, who travelled the roads of Western Kentucky to collect food for KBHC.

Each of these volunteers spent much of their own money and took time away from work and family to help children in need.

We are also grateful to the churches and associations which served as pick-up points and for the pastors, DOM's and volunteers who helped spread the word of our

need for food. We remember, too, that God works through those outside the Baptist fellowship to multiply the blessings for children.

We say a prayer of thanks for all the people through the years who have responded, like the owner of a gas station in a small Western Kentucky town, who refused to accept payment for gasoline to fill

the trucks used during the Food Roundup.

Russell Lemons, a former Glen Dale resident who spoke during the recent President's Dinner said it best. "Thank you," he said. "Without people like you, I would never have had a chance. You made a difference for me."

Curtis Mooney is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243.

Paid Column

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney

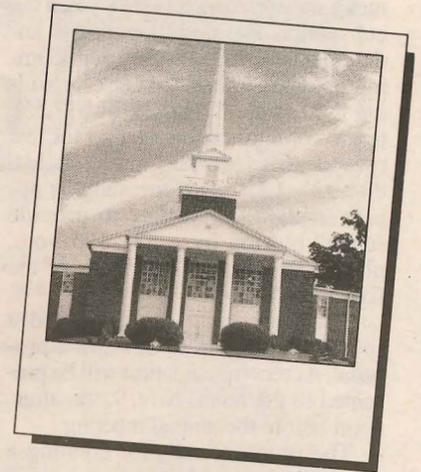
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## Giving

The holiday seasons are rapidly approaching, and they serve as reminders that "giving" is vital to being Christ-centered.

Giving was an important part of the ministry of Christ. Who can forget the little boy that gave his sack lunch to be blessed and multiplied by Jesus. There was also the example of the widow who gave such a small amount of money but was so much for her.

Jesus also stressed other forms of giving. He asked the disciples to give up their jobs to follow him. He taught that discipleship is giving oneself completely to God, and that love is the giving of oneself to the point of laying down one's life for a friend. This was demonstrated by Jesus as he gave himself on the cross.

This same self-giving love has become part of the philosophy of Baptist Healthcare System. After Hurricane Andrew left its destruction, it was discovered that over 1,500 employees of a Baptist hospital in Miami were left homeless. BHS corporate offices sent \$50,000 to help them relocate, and BHS employees are working to match that amount.

Employees give and raise money for the Baptist Healthcare Foundation. They participate in golf and fishing tournaments and mara-

thons. The money helps improve facilities and begin new services.

Employees of Baptist Regional Medical Center have given over \$35,000 to their Employee Benevolent Fund to assist fellow employees during times of crisis. They also have given food, clothes and toys to needy families during the Christmas season.

In August, 22 people representing BHS and Kentucky Baptists went to Brazil on a medical missions trip.

They gave two weeks away from families and work to minister in Brazil. The hours were long and hard. They saw approximately 1,500 people in their medical clinics. When they were not caring for physical needs, they were caring for spiritual needs of the people. They participated in worship services and had over 30 decisions. This was Christian ministry in action.

These are but a few of the many forms of giving, but they exemplify the Christ-centered philosophy of BHS and the Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

Wayne Sibley  
Director of Pastoral Care  
Baptist Regional Medical Center

Any questions or comments concerning this article should be directed to Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

Paid Column

# PEOPLE

## Fight over gay bed & breakfast puts ministers in quandry

By Marv Knox  
Editor

RUSSELLVILLE—A bed-and-breakfast resort for homosexuals has stirred passions in Russellville and put ministers in the middle of a volatile situation.

Anger and indignation swelled in

the community in September, when Russellville native Jimmy Cates and his lover, Jim Turner, announced they planned to open the resort in their home, Stone Mountain Estate, just outside of town.

Local news reports have detailed a string of hateful acts directed toward the duo: Anti-gay graffiti painted on their driveway, effigies hanged from trees on the property, death threats, obscene calls left on their telephone recorder, an attempt to run down a security guard on the property.

Meanwhile, Cates and Turner opened the resort early in October. Their clientele are gays and lesbians, attracted to the secluded mansion, located in the woods at the crest of a hill.

The result has been further offense to the sensibilities of local people, who believe the homosexual lifestyle is sinful, reported Donald Zuberer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Rus-

sellville, who is concerned that the anti-gay forces might harm someone.

"We're in the middle," Zuberer said. "We're against what is taking place out there, but we do not want any bodily harm to come to those men. We also are concerned about their souls."

A large section of the religious community—particularly Catholics, Pentecostals, Baptists, and members of the Church of Christ and Assembly of God—have organized to oppose the new resort but also to promote peaceful protest, Zuberer noted.

"We've formed a community prayer meeting, which meets each Tuesday morning at 6," he reported. "We pray specifically for these men and for the community. Along with it, many people pray for this to be closed down. That's what we really want—for this to be moved out of here."

"We're also praying for the whole state of Kentucky, because what has happened in Russellville can happen anywhere in the state."

The Russellville resort opened following the Kentucky Supreme Court's decision earlier this year to overturn the state law against sodomy, Zuberer said.

Consequently, the Russellville

group is circulating petitions statewide, attempting to urge the General Assembly to pass a new anti-sodomy law.

Several ministers have talked with Cates and Turner. But Cates told an Associated Press reporter he feels persecuted by his family and the Methodist church he attended as a child.

"They're part of the persecution against me now, everybody but my real mother," he said.

Christians need to be concerned for Cates, Turner and their clients, even as they denounce their activities, Zuberer urged.

"We have understanding and compassion for these people who are homosexuals and lesbians," he said. "We have compassion and concern for their spiritual well-being. We believe as Christians we need to minister to everybody—the alcoholic, the murderer and the thief."

"But sins of sex are a different sort," he said, citing the Apostle Paul's warning that to sleep with a prostitute is to "join Jesus Christ with a harlot."

"Sexual sins involve the body and have different kinds of effects on the psyche. All other sins are without the body, so it is a special kind of sin."

## Laurel River opposes KBC change

LONDON—Laurel River Baptist Association has expressed its opposition to a proposed change in the way the Kentucky Baptist Convention accepts messengers to its annual meeting.

Currently, each church which is "in friendly cooperation with" and "a bona fide contributor to" the convention's work gets two messengers to the KBC annual meeting. One additional messenger—up to a total of 10—is added for each 250 members over the first 100 or for each \$250 contributed annually to the Cooperative Program unified budget.

The new proposal—recommended by a special Cooperative Program study committee created by the convention in 1990—would allow one additional messenger, up to 10, "for each \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program and/or the work" of the KBC.

The new proposal would not change the formula for determining messengers based on church membership.

The Laurel River Association unanimously opposed the proposal, according to Gary Kirby, chairman of the association's resolutions committee and pastor of Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London, and associational Moderator John Brock of London.

The association's resolution stated: "We confirm our commitment to the Cooperative Program and its continuation as currently funded by our churches." The resolution encourages all churches in the association to send all eligible messengers to the November meeting and to vote against the proposed change.



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## Church & association reconcile

By Marv Knox  
Editor

STANFORD—Lincoln Baptist Association has readmitted Stanford Baptist Church into its fellowship, opening a new chapter in local Baptist history.

Stanford Church was voted out of Lincoln Association in the mid-1980s, primarily because it accepted alien immersion—allowing people who were baptized by immersion in other faiths to join the church without rebaptism.

Alien immersion "seemed to be the lever" for the association's action, said associational Director of Missions Stan Stevenson, who was not in his associational post at the time.

"We accept people who have been baptized by another denomination as long as they have been immersed and as long as they now share a like Baptist view concerning what their baptism meant," explained Pastor Todd Toole, who came to the Stanford congregation last February. "If there's any question on the matter, then we ask them to be rebaptized."

Many Baptists do not accept alien immersion, believing a person must have been baptized by immersion in a Baptist church in order to join another Baptist congregation without being rebaptized.

Shortly after Toole moved to Stanford, he and Stevenson talked about readmitting the church.

"We discussed the situation and thought it might be a good idea to try to achieve a reconciliation," Toole recalled. "We felt we might have had a breakdown in communication, which could be repaired."

The church and association formed dialogue committees, which met to carry the discussion further. Eventu-

ally, the association's credentials committee voted to recommend accepting Stanford Church.

"Neither side backed down" on their beliefs about baptism, Toole noted. "But we agreed to disagree."

When the association convened its annual meeting this fall, messengers voted overwhelmingly to readmit the congregation, Stevenson reported. "The moderator asked a pastor to stand and count the votes," he said. "The vast majority voted yes, and no one voted no."

The result has been positive, Toole and Stevenson agreed.

"Our people were very excited and happy, and the people of the association seemed to be, too," Toole said. "There was lots of clapping. It was a real feel-good moment."

"We're just real happy with the developments," added Stevenson. "It made relations better, and they will get better with time."

Relations are important in a small town and a rural county, they said.

"Stanford is a county-seat town," Stevenson explained. "People from different churches work together. Restoring associational relationships makes life better for them."

Stanford Church members "were cautious at first," when talk of seeking admittance to the association surfaced, Toole reported. "They didn't know how our desire to return would be reacted to, and they didn't want any more fighting or conflict."

Still, the risk was worth the renewed relationship, he said. "I'm not sure there was a stigma of not being in the association, but people would speak of us as 'the church that's not in the association.' Now, we feel a part of what's happening in Lincoln County, as far as Baptist work is concerned."

## KENTUCKY KERNELS

An association of predominantly Baptist churches formed in 1808 to oppose slavery. The Kentucky Abolition Society worked for constitutional abolition of slavery, spoke out publicly against slavery and sought justice for blacks held in bondage contrary to state laws.

Many slaveholders withdrew from churches that became associated with the society.

Source: *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*

## Mountains to the Mississippi

■ **ASHLAND**—Unity Church called **Gary Frizzell** as pastor. He previously served as pastor of Northside Church in Mayfield.

Also, 50 members of Unity Church completed a study on Experiencing God, while 15 members are being trained in the Continuing Witness Training seminar.

■ **BENTON**—**Glen Stewart** is pastor of Bethlehem Church.

■ **BLACKFORD**—Blackford Church called **Johnnie Dennis** as pastor. He was ordained to the ministry Nov. 1 at Shady Grove Church in Marion.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Lincoln Memorial Church called **Tom Downey** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Trinity Church ordained **Helen Grinnell** and **Sylvia Smith** as deacons Nov. 1.

■ **LONDON**—**Dennis Engle** resigned as pastor of Slate Lick Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Larry and Donna Reddick** resigned as ministers to children at Melbourne Heights Church.

■ **META**—Meta Church ordained **Roger Blackburn, Tom Kline** and **Randall Taylor** as deacons. Also, Meta Church celebrated its 25th anniversary Oct. 18, with **James Lochridge** and **J.V. Case** speaking.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Jewell Barrett**, pastor of Harmony Church in West Paducah for almost 20 years, is pastor of Battle Creek Church in Springfield, Tenn. He also has been pastor of Mt. Zion church in Paducah and Ohio

Valley Church in Ledbetter.

■ **PARIS**—Central Church called **Jay Davis Robison**, pastor of Penile Church in Louisville, as pastor.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church ordained **Chad Morgan Potts** as a deacon.

■ **WAYNESBURG**—Pleasant View Church called **Cleatus E. Jacobs** as associate pastor. Jacobs has served for 24 years as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Somerset.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Kurt and Judy Lawrence**, missionaries to Thailand, are on the field at P.O. Box 832, Bangkok 10501, Thailand. She is from Lexington.

■ **Ken and Beth Perkins**, Kentucky natives and missionaries to Kenya, are on the field at P.O. Box 25919, Nairobi, Kenya. He is from Owenton; she is from Middletown.

■ **Gene and Jackie Phillips**, missionaries to France, are in the States at 207 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, N.C. 27607. He is a Murray native.

■ **Keith and Kathie Reynolds**, missionaries to Honduras, have arrived on the field after reappointment as missionaries. They may be reached at Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, Honduras. He is from Hazard.

■ **James and Rebecca Smith**, Baptist representatives to Eastern Europe, are on the field at Heydensstr. 16 D-1000 Berlin 33, Germany. She is a Louisville native.



**38 YEARS** Ed Hancock (center), accompanied by his wife, Monte (with flower), receives a plaque from Pastor John Walker honoring Hancock for 38 years of service as Sunday school director at Oak Grove First Baptist Church. Joining the pastor for the presentation are Sue Ayscue, Howard Lyon, Nancy and Lee Whitaker and Charles Chaney.

## Layman serves church 38 years

OAK GROVE—At 38 years, Ed Hancock may hold the record length of service for a church Sunday school director.

Members of Oak Grove First Baptist Church gathered with Hancock and his friends and family Sept. 27 to celebrate his 38 years of service as Sunday school director, a position he held since the church's inception in 1954.

In a letter of greeting to Hancock, Harry Piland, director of church growth at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, wrote: "I know of no other person who has served 38 years in this position."

Hancock, now retired from farming, first moved with his wife, Monte, to Oak Grove Mission at Fort Campbell in 1954. He began leading Sun-

day school, he said, because "no one else was there to do the job."

This September, Hancock decided that at 76 years of age, it was time to turn over Sunday school leadership to someone else.

Part of the reason was that he no longer could keep up with all the activities.

"I feel that it's part of my job as a director, that when any department of the Sunday school, from the nursery on up, has something going on, I should be a part of it—I should support it," he said. With the church's recent growth, that has become more difficult for him.

Hancock's son, Bill, who is pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, preached during the morning worship service Sept. 27.

## 'Little Chinese Hillbilly Doctor' dies

Born in Beijing, China, 78 years ago, Dr. Caleb Hung-Ye Chu was buried beside his first wife, Rebecca, and his father in the Oneida Cemetery overlooking the campus of our school. The burial service itself was conducted by Oneida Pastor Joel Rackley and was attended only by members of the Chu family on Saturday, Oct. 24.

At 4 p.m., a public memorial service was held near the county's only hospital where Dr. Chu was a surgeon until retirement in 1987. All flower arrangements which covered the front of the church were solid white, symbolic of Christ's resurrection. One of these was from Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, who introduced young Hung-Ye to Christianity while he served in the household of Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, president of China before World War II. Madame Chiang sponsored his medical education.

In 1949, after the Communist takeover, Dr. Chu, his wife Rebecca, an anesthetist, and two young daughters, came to the U.S. for years of further medical training.

In 1956 he answered the call to come to serve at the Oneida Mountain Hospital as the county's only surgeon. He frequently made house calls muleback or in wagons crossing mountain streams. He and his wife worked side by side in the operating room, performing life-saving surgeries often with makeshift equipment. During these years he won the respect and love of our mountain people. Many called him the "Little Chinese Hillbilly Doctor."

His wife, Rebecca, was killed in a car accident near Oneida in 1964. Four years before, a son, Caleb Perry, had been born. Some years later, Dr. Chu returned to Taiwan and was married to a medical doctor. He brought his new wife,

Priscilla, back to Oneida and resumed his work there until 1971 when the Oneida hospital was closed and reopened in a new, multi-million dollar facility in Manchester.

A friend and supporter of our school, doctor to hundreds of our students and staff over the years, Dr. Chu was honored by our school in 1981.

The memorial service began with the piano and organ playing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "His Hand In Mine" and "Sheep May Safely Graze."

Oneida trustee and 1943 graduate Saul Goins led the opening prayer. I spoke briefly and then our Oneida Ensemble sang "To Everything There Is A Season" and "How Firm A Foundation." Psalm 121 and 125 were read along with I Thessalonians 4:15-18. Longtime hospital administrator Robert Burchard paid tribute as did a Clay Countian, retired Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge J.D. White.

"What Is The Soul Of Man" was sung, and retired hospital chaplain Harold Johnson played a common handsaw with a violin bow as Dr. Chu had so often done. Tears flooded many eyes as we heard once more the haunting "Abide With Me" and "Just As I Am" Chu played often.

The congregation sang "For All The Saints" and Oneida 1930 graduate Squire Baker, retired county court clerk after 36 years of service, prayed the benediction. The organ then pealed "The Holy City" as OBI '41 graduate Calvin Britton led Dr. Priscilla and the extended family from the church. All the rest of us, his adopted Kentucky "cousins," followed.

Barkley Moore is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

### ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore

Paid Column

## Bryant Houchens honored

Warren County retired pastor Bryant A. Houchens preached in chapel Oct. 22. The occasion recognized his 50 years of ministry and celebrated reaching the goal of funding a new student apartment named in his honor. Friends, former churches and a major gift from the Ervin G. Houchens Foundation will make this possible. Over \$12,000 has been received, and more is expected.

Accompanying their father to the mountains were Joe Houchens and Shirlene Meisel. Brother Houchens had not been to Clear Creek in over 30 years. He was surprised in the changes. "It is a much larger work than I realized. Only eternity will reveal the wonderful results of this great work," he remarked.

As a high school student I was saved and joined Calvary, Bowling Green, while Brother Houchens was pastor. My call to ministry and ordination also came under his leadership. I now share with Clear Creek preachers the advice he offered me when I started to preach: "Get yourself a good study Bible and a concordance."

Houchens was pastor of seven Warren County churches: Highland, Bethany, Plano, Providence Knob, Woodburn, Calvary and

White Stone Quarry. He twice was called to Park City Baptist, and during "retirement" served a seven-year interim at Black Jack in Simpson County. Churches continue to call on him for homecomings and supply preaching. He encouraged our students to "love the people and preach the Bible." Called to preach at age 31, Houchens identified with Clear Creekers who begin ministry in the adult years.

Six new apartments have been placed under roof since Aug. 1. Most of the timber to build these units has come from our 700 acres. We cut 60,000 feet of hemlock. Most of the construction has been completed by volunteers. A student worker is installing plumbing. We need volunteers to put on vinyl siding, brick the fronts, hang sheet-rock and trim out the inside. The Lord continues to send us the funds needed to purchase materials.

I am thankful a student apartment will bear the name of this faithful pastor. His life will challenge and encourage the couples who live in the residence which bears his name.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Paid Column

## Missionaries offer aid in Somali refugee camps

By Craig Bird  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MANDERA, Kenya (BP)—"The AK-47 is the president of Somalia now," Noor declared, smiling at his own comment.

Several fellow Somali refugees laughed at the comment—including some scarred by blasts from the infamous Soviet assault rifle and others who have lost wives or children, parents or friends in the bloodletting in their home country.

These days, if a Somali can't find humor in death and dying, there isn't much to smile about. The laughter may be morbid, but so is almost everything else about their situation.

At least in Mandera they are out of reach of the ruling firepower. But they aren't out of the grasp of hunger and disease.

However, they are within reach of a new ministry of Southern Baptist missionaries and Kenyan Baptists in Mandera.

Noor and 50,000 other Somali refugees live in stick-and-reed huts on the edge of Mandera, a remote Kenyan town. There they can see the Somali border which lies less than two miles from the camp. Ethiopia—and another camp housing 20,000 more sick, hungry refugees—lies a mile in the other direction, across the Dawa River.

The refugees poured out of Somalia last year when longtime dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted. They brought almost nothing besides their lives—and upwards of 40 refugees a day are losing even that.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the daily death rate is closer to 80," said David Sorley, a Southern Baptist missionary doctor who has been working in Kenya's northeast province off and on since spring.

Yet another dose of bitter humor:

### Somalia's Muslim clan society 'most ignored' by Christians

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—When the world's handful of Christian Somalis pray for their homeland, they know few countrymen share their beliefs. But almost all share their lineage.

While most of Africa's social structure is built around tribes, Somalia is bound together by closely related family clans. This has made Somalia one of the most homogeneous nations in the world.

In fact, most of the world's 8 million Somalis can trace their origins back to two first-century brothers, Samaal and Saab.

Today hundreds of intertwined family lines have formed a nation rooted in a common language, culture and religion.

From about the seventh century, when Arab traders first introduced Islam to Somalia, the faith has grown to the point that 99.9 percent of the people are Sunni Muslims.

This tight union of family and faith has found little use—or tolerance—for Christianity.

Catholic missionaries began work

The very rains needed to break the three-year drought in the region likely will produce more graves than planted fields.

"If the rains start on time, it will get a lot worse as the cold and wet finishes off the children and women and aged already weakened by hunger and illness," Sorley explained.

Against that background, Kenyan Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries are going to work in Mandera, hundreds of miles from the nearest Baptist church. Most of the refugees and the area's residents are Muslim.

"When we first contacted the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, they were pretty blunt," Sorley admitted. "They said, 'You better not be coming up here to proselyte.'"

The Minneapolis native responded: "I won't hide the fact that I'm a Christian, but we don't believe in trading food for souls either."

Sampson Kisia, chairman of the Baptist Convention of Kenya, agreed. "Anyone who works in Mandera needs to understand this is a different kind of place. If we start preaching on the street and handing out tracts, it will just cause trouble. But if we live out our Christianity while helping men and women and children who are suffering so much, the Lord can provide quiet opportunities for us to witness."

Kisia and Sorley were part of an eight-man team of Kenyans and missionaries who surveyed the area recently. They battled the 100-degree heat to visit refugees in the camp, check in with local government officials and talk with the aid groups in Mandera to see how Baptist personnel and funds could best fit into the emerging aid program.

"We don't want to just show up and start competing" with other relief groups, stressed missionary Sam Turner, a member of the survey team.



**CART WHEEL** A crippled Somali refugee talks to Southern Baptist missionary Herb Cady (right) and refugee leaders in a Kenyan refugee camp. He fled from Somalia being pulled on a cart. In the refugee camp, this man and others with disabilities must struggle to defend their food as stronger refugees often attempt to steal it. (BP photo by Craig Bird)

"We want to find people who are being missed and minister to them. There is too much human need to duplicate effort."

Food distribution apparently will be handled adequately by other agencies, so likely Baptist projects include:

■ A therapeutic medical program focusing on children and the disabled too weak to walk to the feeding centers or stand in line for long hours. Often they are incapable of defending the food they are given.

■ A latrine-building program. The biggest "bathroom" is a dry riverbed that intersects the camp. Rains wash the waste into the river—the only water source for both the camp and the town. Southern Baptist funds paid for

tools so refugees could dig 4-meter-deep toilets. The first week they dug 36. The camp needs 2,500 before the rains come.

■ Help with the water supply. The UN refugee commission is rehabilitating the water system itself. So Baptists may do things as simple as teaching the refugees to build one-family, upward-flow water filters out of concrete and sand, or as intensive as drilling boreholes.

■ Education for children. "You can see the children running in packs with no supervision and nothing to do," Kisia explained. "If they live here two years, their social skills will be gone and they'll never go back to school. This is the critical age."



**REFUGEES** Somali refugees crowd the Medinat As'shaab camp in Yemen. Thousands of refugees have fled Somalia to Yemen across the Gulf of Aden. Southern Baptists have begun relief ministries among Somali refugees. The ministry includes support for food distribution, medical programs, a latrine-building program, help with establishing good water supplies and education for children. (BP photo by Rodney Armstrong)

### What can you do? Pray and give

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—As hunger continues to devastate Somalia, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board urges people to increase their prayers and their gifts to the board's world relief funds.

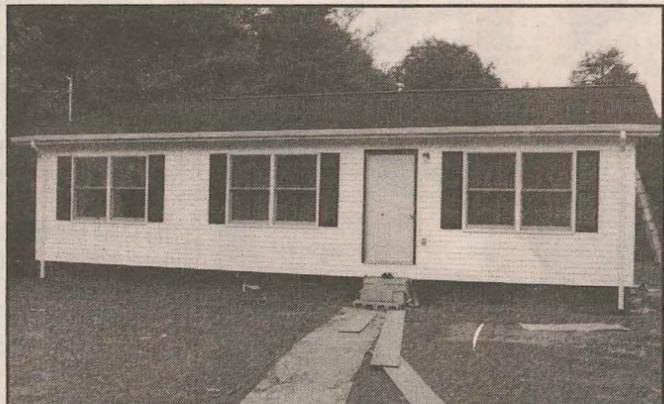
The FMB has allocated more than \$1.3 million in hunger funds and \$100,000 in general relief funds for Somali aid.

But those figures represent only a small part of what will be needed, according to John Cheyne, who coordinates hunger and relief efforts.

Besides relieving hunger, missionaries seek to meet urgent general relief needs, such as for medicine, blankets and other vital supplies, Cheyne said. He encourages donors to designate gifts to world relief, rather than just to hunger, since world relief funds may be used for all urgent needs, including hunger.

# CUMBERLAND

Cumberland College expresses appreciation to the students and to the members of the church groups who assisted the Mountain Outreach Program this past summer to build seven new homes for families living in the area. The pictures below show the homes built this summer along with the names of the churches that assisted in the construction projects.



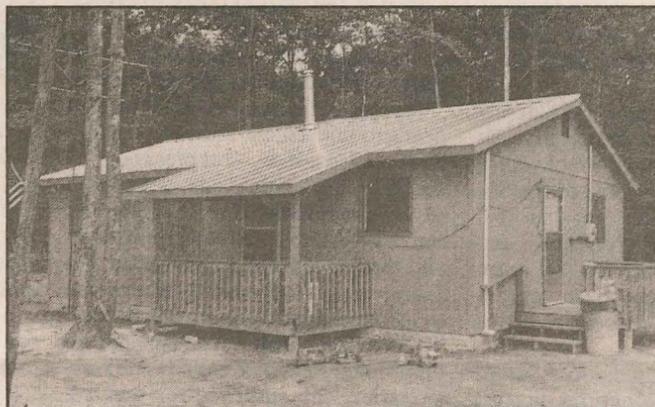
First Baptist Church, Paducah, KY



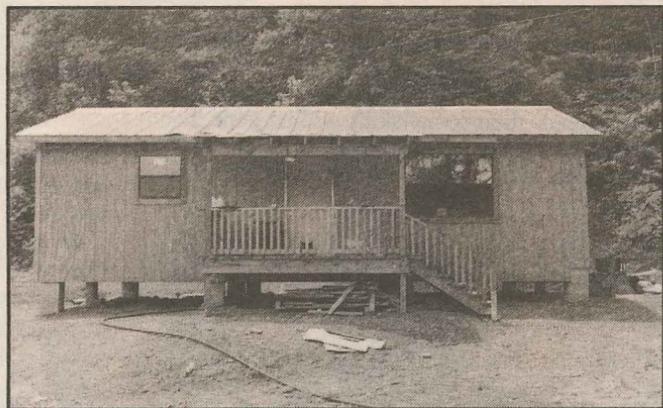
First Baptist Church, Fort Thomas, KY



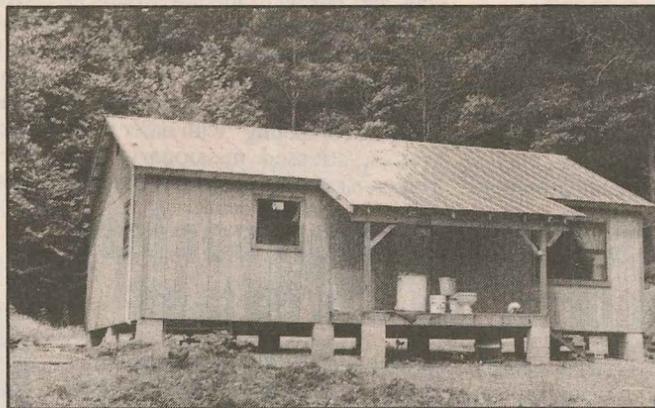
Piedmont Baptist Church, Marietta, GA  
Bayleaf Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC



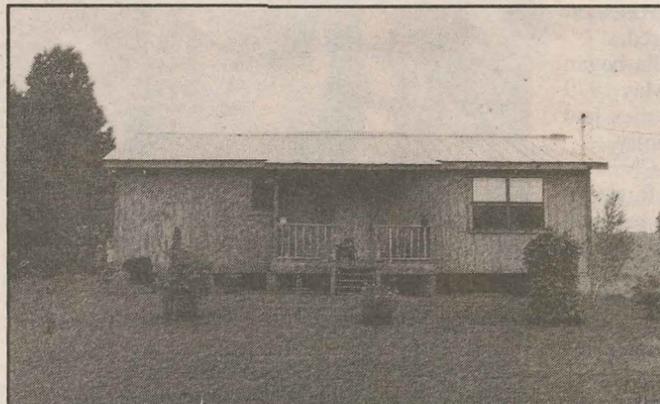
Northwest & College Park Baptist Churches,  
Sunrise Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, NC



Calvary Baptist Church, Florence, SC  
Fellowship Baptist Church, Tallahassee, FL



Valley View Baptist Church  
Louisville, KY



Weatherly Heights Baptist Church  
Huntsville, AL

